

DAILY STAR

THE NEWS
THE GOSS
THE PICS
THE SPORT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004

SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

Becks bomb target

MADRID GAME HALTED
● PAGE 7

'RIGHTS FOR BURGLARS' SPARKS OUTCRY

FULL STORY ● PAGE 8

STEVE: I FEAR KINKY SEX SECRET



Ex-lovers threaten to spill the beans

X-FACTOR romeo Steve Brookstein fears kinky secrets will kill his chart career before it even starts.

He's admitted to bedding a string of beauties before he settled down.

One ex has already exposed his

EXCLUSIVE

by IAIN BURCHELL

lust for threesomes and bondage. And the 36-year-old telly contest topper - who won a £1 million record deal - knows there are more X-rated

Turn to Page 5



Jen's our
snow
queen

SEXY
NEW
PICTURES

● PAGE 30

Picture: CELEBRITYMEDIAGROUP

Black Watch fly home as ex Army chief says forces are..



HEROES: Soldiers from the Black Watch regiment arrive back at RAF Lyneham

SHOT TO BITS

by TONY LEONARD
THE Army is "dangerously small and over-committed" because of huge cutbacks.

That is the claim of the former head of the Armed Forces, Lord Guthrie.

And he warned that plans to slash the size of the infantry would leave the nation unable to react militarily to some emergencies.

The former Chief of both General Staff and Defence Staff reacted to an expected announcement this week that infantry battalions will be cut from 40 to 36.

His comments came as Black Watch soldiers flew home from a gruelling tour to Iraq to face an uncertain future.

Lord Guthrie said: "The Army is very small as it is, and has a huge number of commitments."

"It has become dangerously small for what it is being asked to do."

"The Army always has to be prepared for the unexpected, but if you have too small an Army you can't react."

Lord Guthrie, 66, served under both Conservative and Labour governments and retired four years ago.

He is Colonel Commandant of the Special Air Service. The



WAR OF WORDS: Ex-Army boss Lord Guthrie, left, and Geoff Hoon

Government is expected to announce its plans for the reorganisation of the Army, first announced by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon in the summer, this week.

Swallowed

The Army will see numbers cut from 104,000 to 102,000 and it is expected to affect all infantry battalions.

The Black Watch is likely to be swallowed up by a single "super regiment" created by the amalgamation of all six Scottish regiments.

Prime Minister Tony Blair



has said the decision is being driven by the Army rather than by politicians.

And Mr Hoon insisted the cuts would only improve the Armed Forces.

"I do not share Lord Guthrie's concerns about the future of our Armed Forces."

"What we are trying to do is ensure our Armed Forces, and our Army in particular, is organised to face the challenges of the 21st century."

Meanwhile, the final flight bringing home the Black Watch from Iraq is due to touch down in Britain today.

Angry Saddam's 'on hunger strike'

CAPTURED Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is on hunger strike, a lawyer claimed yesterday.

The former ruler and 11 of his henchmen were said to have stopped eating in protest at their treatment by his Allied captors.

Last night, Badiaa Aref Ezzat, the lawyer of former deputy prime minister Tareq

Aziz, said: "Saddam Hussein and 11 other prisoners began a hunger strike on Friday to protest about ill-treatment."

It was a year ago today that Saddam was captured hiding in a hole by American soldiers.

US officials confirmed some prisoners were refusing meals but claimed Saddam was not among them.



PROTEST: Saddam

NEWSFLASH

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Pucker up like the stars

SEE PAGES 26-27

VANESSA 11 ● CATCHPOLE 25
GOSS 14:45 ● TELLY 32:35
HOT 18:19 ● JANE 36

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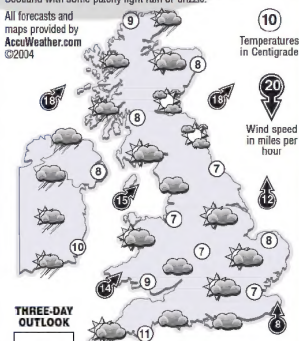
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Cloudy and dry weather will continue across England and Wales once morning mist and fog clears. Some bright spells in eastern England and eastern Scotland. Rain for Northern Ireland.

OUTLOOK: Dry and cloudy from south-west England to eastern England. Staying cloudy as well over Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland with some patchy light rain or drizzle.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather.com ©2004



POUND ABROAD

Australia	2.54 dollars
Canada	0.65 dollars
Cyprus	0.85 pounds
Czech Republic	44.64 korunas
Mexico	21.76 pesos
South Africa	11.18 rand
Thailand	75.89 baht
Turkey	2745204 liras
United States	1.92 dollars

EURO

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain	€ 1.45
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ABROAD

Alcantara	fair	17C (62F)	N. York	cloudy	4C (25F)
Corfu	fair	16C (61F)	Nice	fair	9C (48F)
Dublin	showers	10C (50F)	Paris	cloudy	16C (61F)
L. Angeles	fair	21C (70F)	Rhodes	fair	4C (25F)
Majorca	fair	16C (61F)	Rome	showers	16C (61F)
Miami	sunny	23C (73F)	Tenerife	showers	16C (61F)

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LOTTO DAILY PLAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

4 5 6 12 16 22 25

No ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

SATURDAY LOTTO

DECEMBER 11

7 9 19 23 27 49 1

Three ticket holders share the £3.9m jackpot

EXTRA: 12, 14, 17, 24, 36, 41 T'Ball 2, 11, 13, 18, 25 (Tb 14)

No Extra winners. No T'Ball winner got £250,000 jackpot

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

DECEMBER 8

11 12 16 26 35 39 34

Two share £3m jackpot

EXTRA: 10, 18, 19, 37, 43, 48 T'Ball: 6, 14, 24, 26, 27 (Tb 11)

EURO LOTTO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

1, 3, 13, 16, 43 Lucky Star Numbers 2, 7

NEWSPAPERS
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Recycled paper made up
65.5% of the total material for
UK newspapers in 2000

Erica

■ CURVY Erica, 23, has the writing bug. The blue-eyed blonde from Milton Keynes loves penning children's stories. So move over Enid Blyton, The Secret Seven and The Famous Five – and get a load of Erica's Fabulous Pair.

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CHITTY CHITTY HEAD BANG

Picture: JEMMY SAVAGE



Evil Ozzy would make the ideal Child Catcher

■ by TIM RIDER

PRINCE of Darkness Ozzy Osbourne would love to play the evil Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The rock star is in talks with producers of the hit West End show to play the famous villain on stage next year.

Ozzy, 56, said: "I love the show and think I would be great in that role. I am supposed to be the Prince of F***ing Darkness after all."

He wants to replace former Boyzone singer Stephen Gately, who is set to leave the show on January 16.

Ozzy is the second rock star to be linked with the sinister role as his mate Meat Loaf is currently in talks to play the part on Broadway.

Perfect

He would follow in the footsteps of former Crystal Maze host Richard O'Brien and Lily Savage creator Paul O'Grady, who have both played the evil Catcher in the West End.

Friends of the former Black Sabbath star say Ozzy will be perfect in the part. They reckon his gothic look and shaky voice will terrify kids.

But pals are concerned the rocker might have to shave off his trademarks locks – the character is usually bald.

The stage play hit the West End in 2002 and has been a massive success.

The Star Says: Page 6

Live and let drive

■ MOTORISTS with a licence to thrill have voted James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 their dream car.

The car was driven by 007, played by Sean Connery, in Goldfinger and topped a Dream Journey poll by Kwik-Fit.

Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody was the top tune for driving, while the ideal passengers were Robbie Williams for women and Jennifer Aniston for men.

X FACTOR finalists G4 have two major record labels embroiled in a bidding war to make them international stars. Talks will be held this week to secure multi-million-pound contracts for Jonathan Ansell, 22, Michael Christie, 23, Matt Stiff, 24 and Ben Thapa, 22, in a bid to send them to the top of the charts.

MORE than 21 million Brits were gripped by Saturday night's reality TV showdowns.

More than 90% of the total viewing public tuned in to the finals of Strictly Come Dancing and X Factor.

But BBC1's ballroom show stepped all over Simon Cowell's pop star talent search in the ratings with 11.2 million viewers, while X Factor pulled 9.9 million.

THE bitter X Factor judges' war will continue next year when the hit show returns for a second series.

Simon Cowell says he can't wait to resume his rivalry with sparring partners Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh after guiding soul singer Steve Brookstein to glory in Saturday's final.

BOOKIES are counting the cost of Steve Brookstein and Jill Halfpenny's reality TV wins.

A Ladbrokes spokesman said it was "shocking" that two short-odds favourites came in.

It ended a bad week for bookies as favourite Joe Pasquale won I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!

Cowell: X Factor winner's got the

LOVE GOD STEVE WILL BE BIGGER THAN ROBSTER

by IAIN BURCHELL
SIMON Cowell is ready to make X Factor winner Steve Brookstein the first £20 million reality TV star.

He reckons the hunky soul crooner, 36, can be as big as Robbie Williams and is tipping him to make his first million by the end of the year.

Pop kingmaker Cowell said at the start of the nationwide talent search that he was looking for a new Robster or George Michael.

And he's convinced Steve's cheeky charm, good looks and smooth voice can fill the bill.

He said: "He's definitely got the charm of Robbie, so why not? I wouldn't change anything now. I'm happy. Steve could be a millionaire by the end of the year."

"As long as we make a good record - and we will - then he's got the chance we promised at the start of X Factor."

The megabucks pop boss is putting his money where his mouth is by assembling a team of top writers and producers to work on his protegee's debut album.

Music industry insiders say Steve will also release a collection of the classic songs he performed on the ITV show to win his £1m recording contract.

He already has a massive fanbase after more than 8 million voted in Saturday night's showdown with G4.

Fake

And Cowell insists his latest signing didn't need a sympathy vote to beat the operatic boyband - even though rival judge Sharon Osbourne branded Steve a "fake" and "full of crap".

Outspoken Sharon said she helped the pub and club circuit veteran win by "slugging him off" making viewers feel sorry for him.

But Cowell said: "I honestly don't think that people vote for that reason."

"I think they take it quite seriously. They vote for the singer they like the best."

Londoner Steve revealed Sharon had already launched a foul-mouthed rant at him before the final when they had a massive bust-up in rehearsals.

He claimed she lost it when he ignored her off-camera jibes.

He said: "People were often making digs at me. 'They never said them on camera so I took it upon myself to shut it out and not listen."

"So I just stood there and went 'Blah, blah, blah, blah' and she went into one. She started effing and blinding, calling me every name under the sun."

Incredibly, Steve almost slipped through the X Factor net when the judges booted him out of his first audition, with Louis Walsh doubting his commitment to music.

Single
Cowell was impressed by the audition, however, and persuaded Sharon and Walsh to give him a second chance.

Steve's cover version of Phil Collins' tear-jerker Against All Odds, which he performed in the final,



LOST SOULS: Judges Louis and Sharon



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SEX FACTOR DOES IT FOR ME EVERY TIME!

by KATIE BEGLEY

WE'VE finally got what we've all been waiting weeks for - the X Factor result. And in my opinion the best man won.

There have been cries of foul play and vote rigging.

But what you can't deny is the man has charisma, a sexy smile and the ability to bring any self-respecting woman to her knees with his soulful voice.

Like most women, this cheeky chappy was the only reason I tuned into the show.

From the start I was hooked by his laid-back attitude and sexy voice. By the time the final came around it was easy to spot the winner.

How could anyone choose four choirboys in suits over a piece of eye candy?

More importantly, why would you choose a band who massacred Britney's Baby One More Time?

Well done Steve - can't wait to hear your first album.



PUB SINGER WINNER LEAVES A BAD TASTE

by KIM DAWSON

WHEN a smug pub singer is named the best undiscovered music talent in the UK, it's time to question reality talent contests.

The public got it right with Will Young on the first Pop Idol and Girls Aloud on Popstars: The Rivals but then the sympathy vote sprung out of nowhere.

Michelle McManus, Alex Parks and now slimy Steve Brookstein.

Wake up people. Fact: Mark Rhodes and Sam Nixon who came second and third to McManus, now have careers on TOTP

Saturday as presenters; Alistair Griffin, runner-up to Parks, is on the list for Best Male at the Brits, and G4 and Tabby WILL have longer careers than Steve.

Sharon Osbourne was spot on when she said Steve was "full of crap" and "a fake".

You'll be laughing all the way to the bank when Brookstein is back driving his Volvo.

I won't even use a free copy of his covers album as a coaster. It'd turn the milk in my tea sour.

charm and good looks to be a megastar



THE WINNER! Flashback to Steve's big night on Saturday when he beat G4 to take the X-Factor prize and celebrated with girlfriend Eileen. Right: ITV1 host Kate Thornton tells him he's got the £1 million prize in the bag. Below, he signs the contract with Simon Cowell and Tim Bowen.



Secrets of the X-Man

From Page One
 revelations to come. They could harm his public image and knock down his record sales – as well as damage his bliss with gorgeous girlfriend Eileen Hunter, 24.

Steve said: "There probably will be more stories. I have enjoyed myself. I've made mistakes along the way. Who hasn't?"

"I've experimented on the kinky side. What man wouldn't if offered the chance?"

Steve's also confessed that, despite his current happiness, he still finds it hard to stay faithful.

He's been linked with Holby City beauty Tina Hobley, 33, after they flirted at a London nightclub only last month.

Whips

And it will take a while for him to live down the kiss-and-tell tales of singer ex-girlfriend Katie Jackson, 24.

She told how he enjoyed using handcuffs, whips and porn videos to spice up their romps.

A pal of Steve's said: "He has now become an idol to millions of young women who have fallen for his cheeky-chappy smile."

"The last thing he needs is for his former lovers to come forward and spill the beans about his bedroom secrets."

Steve says he has thought seriously about proposing to Eileen.

But he insists he has no immediate plans to pop the question.



JILL'S GOT FIVE ON THE GO: PAGE 7

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Victims' families plead for tougher sentences

5 YEARS IF YOU CARRY A KNIFE

KILLED AT SCHOOL: Luke Walmsley, left, was stabbed with a knife similar to this evil blade. Parents Paul and Jayne are leading the fight for tougher sentences



FAMILIES of victims of Britain's growing "blade culture" last night demanded a five-year jail sentence for yobs carrying knives.

Relatives of five people stabbed to death are leading the fight to increase the punishment.

They will be at Downing Street today in a bid to persuade Prime Minister Tony Blair to make carrying a blade as serious an offence as being caught with a gun.

Joke

Paul Walmsley, whose 14-year-old son Luke was stabbed to death at his school in Lincolnshire by twisted bully Alan Pennell last year, blasted Britain's current law on knife possession.

He branded it a "sick joke", adding: "If you carry a gun in a public place you automatically get a five-year prison sentence. But if you carry a knife – even a hunting knife with a seven-inch blade – you will probably only get a caution from the police."

"The very worst that will happen is a £75 fine – which can be less than a parking ticket." He said three

■ by PAUL MALLEY

times as many people were stabbed to death in Britain than were shot dead. Mr Walmsley fumed: "People think guns are much more dangerous than knives – but they aren't."

Architect Bernard Hegarty, 29, was stabbed to death in August in Bethnal Green, London.

He was killed after struggling with a street robber. His brother Michael said: "Knives are so prevalent now that every two weeks someone loses their life as a result of being stabbed."

"Every two weeks a family has to go through what we've been through."

The campaign is also being spearheaded by the father of murdered 10-year-old Damilola Taylor.

Richard Taylor is still hoping his son's killers will be brought to justice four years after they stabbed him to death in south London.

But he says the sentences for carrying knives and violent crime "have no effect at all".

Norman Brennan, of the Victims of Crime Trust, warned that unless action was taken soon, most violent crimes would involve knives.

He said: "Knives represent as great a threat to public safety as guns."

Brennan said the Government had

tolerated knife-carrying in a way it would never tolerate guns, adding: "The result is it is not just hardcore criminals who carry knives. A lot of ordinary people and a lot of schoolchildren do as well."

Mr Brennan, a serving policeman who has been stabbed, went on: "We want adults who go armed in public with a knife that has a blade longer than three inches automatically to go to prison for five years."

"I have no doubts at all that if the police were to enforce such a law, it would lead to a dramatic drop in the number of stabbings."

Ban

In the meantime, under-18s are to be banned from buying knives under plans announced by the Government.

Home Secretary David Blunkett wants to raise the age at which youngsters can buy knives from the current 16.

Mr Blunkett insisted he would do everything in his power to get knives off the streets of Britain.

He will unveil his plans on the subject at talks with police chiefs on Wednesday.

Figures showed there were 14,110 knife crimes in London last year – one every 25 minutes.



TRAGIC: Damilola Taylor, 10, was stabbed in London



VICTIM: Bernard Hegarty struggled with a robber

DAILY STAR
says

M'lud, you are a joke

ATTORNEY General Lord Goldsmith is the Government's in-house lawyer.

That makes him a very powerful fella.

He was the one who said war in Iraq was legal – and Tony Blair wouldn't have gone ahead if he hadn't agreed.

So hear him now on what homeowners should be allowed to do to protect themselves against burglars.

"We must protect victims and law-abiding citizens. But we have to recognise that others have some rights as well."

"They don't lose all rights because they're engaged in criminal conduct."

Oh yeah? They don't?

Well they damned well should.

We'd like to hear the good lord's view on the day after his palatial home gets turned over.

Remember, a liberal is someone who's yet to be mugged.

And he's the guy who the Prime Minister has asked to "review" the current law.

Sounds like he's already made his mind up.

The man's a disgrace.

Steve's win perfect gift

STEVE Brookstein's X Factor triumph is a real heart-warming Christmas tale.

Here's a 36-year-old guy who's spent the last 17 years trying to get a break in the music biz and has finally hit the big time.

Even his backer, Simon Cowell, said his career was in the "last chance saloon".

Millions of you thought Steve's sexy voice and big-toothed grin made him a worthy winner.

But the boys in G4 need not worry. They'll make a few quid out of their own careers.

Now roll on next year – and X Factor 2.

Wizard of Oz

HERE'S a treat for any impressionable youngsters in the New Year.

Ozzy Osbourne is lined up to play the Child Catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

As long as the self-proclaimed Prince of Darkness doesn't appear as the bat catcher, we might get away without a bloodbath.

Terrorist bomb threat to Becks

Madrid stars and fans flee stadium as game's halted

■ by ROSS KANIUK

DAVID Beckham and Michael Owen were caught up in a bomb scare last night as their team Real Madrid's game was abandoned and the huge Bernabeu Stadium evacuated.

Real's stars and their Basque opponents Real Sociedad ran from the pitch on the orders of the referee after a warning was phoned through to Basque newspaper Gara.

Terror

A caller claimed a bomb had been planted in the VIP area of the ground.

Basque separatist terror group ETA had issued similar warnings to Gara before a series of small explosions in Spanish cities in recent days.

Only two minutes were left in last night's game - with the score standing at 1-1.

The warning was that the bomb would go off at 9pm Spanish time, shortly after the match was due to finish. After



RELIEF: Victoria Beckham was not at game

the 70,000 fans in the ground had been evacuated, a suspicious rucksack was examined by bomb disposal experts.

England skipper Beckham was playing in the match and his parents were watching from his VIP box. But wife Victoria, 30, and

sons Brooklyn, five, and two-year-old Romeo were not at the match.

While the players got onto team buses still wearing their kit, fans streamed out of the stadium.

Real Sociedad are from the Basque town of San Sebastian in northern Spain.

ALERT: David Beckham and Real Sociedad's Bittor Alkiza before the bomb scare. Inset: Michael Owen
Picture: REUTERS / SERGIO PEREZ

DANCE QUEEN JILL'S GOT FIVE ON THE GO

Star's offered more shows

DANCING champ Jill Halfpenny is being lined up for FIVE new roles, making her the queen of Saturday night TV.

BBC chiefs believe the Strictly Come Dancing winner, along with partner Darren Bennett, has "the X factor" that makes her such a success.

And they reckon she's the perfect choice to become BBC1's all-singing, all dancing "Miss Entertainment".

Bubbly

Sources claim the ex-EastEnders favourite could spearhead a new-look Saturday night schedule, alongside £5million man Graham Norton.

Beeb bosses believe the public are ready for a return to shows like 60s favourite Saturday Night at the London Palladium, which featured singers, dancers, comics, magicians and jugglers.

A variety show will be piloted in January and if that goes well the Beeb will launch the show in the spring - with Georgie Jill, 29, a firm favourite to take a leading role.

Wayne Garvie, BBC head of entertainment

EXCLUSIVE ■ by NIGEL PAULEY

and the man behind Strictly Come Dancing, said: "I think variety's coming back."

A BBC source added: "Jill has become the hottest property in entertainment almost by accident."

"She has really proved herself as an all-round talent and shown a whole new side of herself during what's amounted to an extended audition."

"She can sing, dance and has a really bubbly personality which viewers warm too."

"Being axed by EastEnders might just prove to be the best thing that's ever happened to her."

Jill - Kate Mitchell in the soap - started rehearsing last night for this week's Royal Variety Show.

She is also set to perform at the EastEnders Christmas special, a Sound of Music special and Strictly Come Dancing's champion of champions show.

The Sound of Music show is being hosted by Norton, 41, and will give bosses a chance to see them working together.

Jill has also been inundated with offers of work from stage shows and is tipped to take a role in Chicago in the West End.



VICTORY: Jill and Darren

BELLE OF THE BALL: Jill's a firm favourite with telly viewers



Picture: DAVE NELSON

Notice for Victims of Abuse in Residential Schools & Homes in the Irish Republic

The Irish Residential Institutions Redress Board has been established to pay claims for those who suffered abuse or bad treatment in Irish residential schools and care. 25% of potential claimants live in England. The maximum award so far has been about £190,000 with awards averaging £53,000.

Hodge Jones & Allen clients have so far been awarded over £1.7m in total and recent settlement offers have been for £103,400 and £70,000, plus legal costs.

We are specialist personal injury and child abuse lawyers with a dedicated team of solicitors to help you with your application. We are acting for over 250 Irish clients who are making applications for compensation to the Board. As such, we are the leading practice based in England dealing with these claims.

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**STARS
TEXTS
LETTERS**
Page 41



Corrie quickie and they're off

■ CORONATION
Street beauty Tina O'Brien got her co-star boyfriend Ryan Thomas all revved-up with a steamy snog on a shopping trip in Manchester.

■ The lovebirds, who play Sarah Platt and Jason Grimshaw in the soap, shared a lingering kiss before zooming off on Ryan's motorbike.

■ It's no wonder Ryan, 20, was smiling as they shopped for festive treats – he must think it's Christmas every day dating sexy 21-year-old Tina.



Pictures: EAMONN and JAMES CLARKE

389...er

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LAW CHIEF: BURGLARS HAVE RIGHTS

He says THEY need protection



ROW: Lord Goldsmith

HOMEOWNERS were outraged last night after the Government's top lawyer said burglars have rights too.

The Attorney General Lord Goldsmith said even if someone broke into a house they had the "right to protection from violence".

His comments fly in the face of Prime Minister Tony Blair's pledge to look again at the law on how far homeowners should be allowed to go when tackling burglars.

Many police officers, politicians and crime victims say people should be allowed to use whatever force necessary to stop intruders – even if it led to burglars being killed.

But in a major blow to their campaign, Lord Goldsmith, 52, said the current law was adequate because it allowed homeowners to use "reasonable force".

In comments that one homeowner described as giving crooks "the right to

by PAUL MALLEY

burgles", Lord Goldsmith said: "We must protect victims and law-abiding citizens. But we have to recognise that others have some rights as well."

"They don't lose all rights because they're engaged in criminal conduct."

But Shadow Home Secretary David Davis, 55, said: "All human beings have rights, but when somebody enters your home to commit a crime they give up a large portion of them."

Force

Britain's top cop, Met Commissioner Sir John Stevens, 62, said: "Enabling homeowners to use whatever force is necessary will discourage burglars."

A Tory Private Member's Bill – dubbed the Kill A Burglar Bill – is going through the Commons. It aims to stop have-a-go homeowners being unfairly prosecuted.

The Star Says: Page 6

Stores online 'rip-off' probed

■ by KATIE BEGLEY
LEADING supermarket chains are being investigated after claims by shoppers that they are being ripped off.

The Office of Fair Trading, which is the Government's consumer watchdog, has launched an inquiry into the online services of Tesco and Sainsbury's.

Both supermarket chains are accused of:

- Charging more money for products than advertised on the website.
- Charging for luxury products but substituting them with regular items.
- Using websites to dump food which is close to its sell-by date.

The inquiry follows a flood of complaints by shoppers using the online services of the firms.

Match

The problems are said to have developed because the websites only provide guide prices and don't tell customers when items are not available.

Instead, once people have paid for their shopping, the supermarkets then send them "suitable substitutes".

A survey by Which? magazine found 90% of people using Sainsbury's website said their orders "generally" contained substituted items.

And three-quarters of Tesco customers said the quality of the products didn't match the price they had paid for them.

Both supermarkets confirmed that they have been approached by the Office of Fair Trading but declined to comment.

■ SWEET-TOOTHED thieves who last month stole 600 boxes of cakes from bakers Ridings in Huddersfield, West Yorks, have returned and stolen another 1,200. A police source said: "Either the burglars are very hungry or they are stealing to order."

SNOW LONGSHOT

BOOKMAKER William Hill has doubled the odds of a white Christmas in London to 7-1 after the recent mild weather.

14M ON WAY...AND THEY'RE ALL LEGAL

Immigration nightmare



ENOUGH: Yesterday's Daily Star Sunday

BLUNKETT IS DEFIANT

■ by TONY LEONARD
UNDER-FIRE David Blunkett has come out fighting against the latest allegations that he fast-tracked a visa application for his former lover's nanny.

The Home Secretary yesterday insisted again that his only involvement was when he checked that the form was in order.

And he attacked the nameless civil servant who has accused him of intimidating officials into speeding up the application.

Mr Blunkett's spokesman said: "The only contact David had with the application was when he checked over the form initially."

An inquiry, set up under former civil servant Sir Alan Budd, will decide on the truth of the fast-track claims.

The fallout from the Home Secretary's affair with Kimberly Quinn has also been stoked by the emergence of a radio interview in which he spoke of his love for the married publisher.



DENIALS: Blunkett

■ by JACK BELLAMY
BRITAIN is bracing itself for a hugely-damaging immigration explosion.

A massive influx of 14 million LEGAL immigrants can be expected in the next 50 years - threatening to bring the country to its knees.

That's a total of 11m more people living here by 2053, even allowing for a three million dip in the native population because of the falling birth rate.

Fears

Emergency contingency plans will have to be drawn up to cope and fears revealed in a Treasury forecast intensify as they do not take into account the hordes of illegal immigrants who are bound to arrive in years to come.

The pressure on public services would be phenomenal, with roads grinding to a halt, hospital waiting lists soaring and schools unable to cope with demand. The shock news comes a day after the Daily Star Sunday revealed 77.2% of readers are so fed up they want ALL immigrants turned away immediately.

Sir Andrew Green, chairman of Immigration Watch UK, demanded an urgent debate to thrash out the potential crisis.

He said: "Immigration on this scale is hugely significant for the future of our society."

Quality

"The issues are not just economic.

"They go to the heart of our quality of life - housing, recreational space, transport, pollution.

"The bottom line is to ask why we should want so many people here."

The Government has now got some explaining to do after recently being forced to admit their "net" immigration prediction of about 100,000 a year was more like 150,000.

Britons who leave were included in the official statistic.

But the figure is realistically almost 190,000.

The Chancellor's pre-budget report admitted Britain's population would expand from the current 60m to 71m by 2053.

Picture: ARNOLD TURNER/REIMAGE.COM



Traci a big hit

■ SATIN sensation Traci Bingham, 36, shows a lot of front as she joins in the festivities at a music festival in LA at the weekend.

The former Baywatch babe looked swell as she turned heads in a low-cut top and short skirt.

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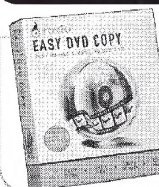
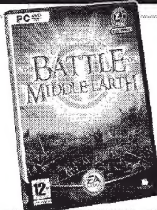
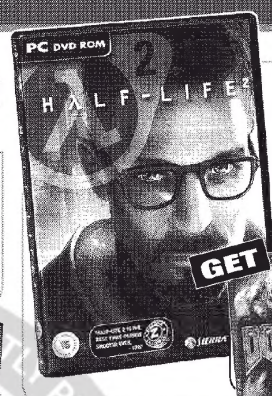
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VANESSA FELTZ

Twice a week
Monday & Thursday

Chin up, Kerry—we all love you

KERRY McFadden is being treated in the Priory and who can be remotely surprised? This tiny 24-year-old has packed more suffering into her short life than a team of EastEnders scriptwriters.

In the past year alone, she soared to the summit of the Western World when 16 million besotted viewers saw her crowned Queen of the Jungle.

It seemed as if the pushy little sprite from Warrington, with no discernable talent – she admitted she didn't actually sing much on her Atomic Kitten hits – had won the nation over by sheer force of personality.

She was tearful, fearful, sentimental and mawkish but her natural warmth won the day.

She can't manage "best face forward for the camera". She's got no facade. She was just Kerry – drunken drivellings, burnings, vulnerability and all.

She arrived home on a tidal wave of affection and ran into the outstretched arms of "my Brian". In the sheer excitement of it all, the nation was prepared to draw a veil over the true nature of "my Brian", the then-podgy dullard from Westlife.

Somewhat, in the first flush of Happy Family pictures featuring liberal use of their two dolly-faced toddlers Molly, three, and Lilly Sue, two, we have quite forgotten that Brian welcomed Kerry to married life not by carrying her over the threshold in the traditional manner but by having sex with a lap dancer on his stag night.

Was that just a boyish, under-the-influence, there-but-for-the-grace-of-God mistake of the sort that could happen to anyone? Or was Sigmund Freud, the daddy of psychology, right when he said there's no such thing as a mistake?

Brian McFadden knew full well he had an overwhelming chance of being exposed as a shagger in a kiss-and-tell but he still got down and dirty. He was only 22

at the time. Was he crying – as loudly and publicly as he could – for help?

Now, of course, it's poor Kerry who needs professional help and it's the newly-slimline Brian who waits about recording with stunning Neighbours star Delta Goodrem and making comments like: "I hope people will respect how Kerry is feeling and give her a break so she can pick herself up. It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do but it was over."

Over? After just two years and two tiny little daughters?

After Kerry made no secret of looking to Brian and his family for stability following a childhood spent largely in care with no father figure and frequent partings from her mother?

After Kerry gave him the benefit of the doubt even though he betrayed her before they'd even begun?

The hardest thing you've ever had to do, Brian McFadden? Don't you mean the most cowardly, lazy, selfish, childish thing you've ever done?

Where's your backbone, Brian? Where's your loyalty?

The whole nation appreciated not only Kerry's feisty sense of fun but her fragility and emotional frailty.

Are you really so thick, Brian, or so far up your own backside that you truly did not realise withdrawing the only security Kerry had ever known would tip her over the edge and straight into hospital?

Bless her, Kerry's put up a good fight. In her quest for an instant new identity she binned the bleach, went brunette, took up with former squeeze Dan Corsi and started schlepping round nightclubs as if her life depended on it.

Come to think of it, it probably did. Deprived of Brian and domesticity, she must have been desperate for somewhere to go, someone to turn to, some way to fill the emptiness.

Kerry, love, we're all rooting for you. Remember ... just because that plonker McFadden isn't man enough for you, and Corsi's bitten the dust, it doesn't mean there won't be battalions of blokes grown-up enough, decent, reliable and hunky enough to help you achieve what every queen deserves – living happily ever after.



DEAR Esther

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Esther Rantzen

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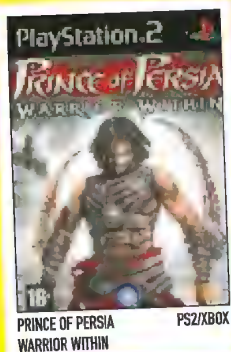


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Pictures: PAUL COUSANS



Coleen hops it as the fur flies

■ **SHOPAHOLIC** Coleen McLoughlin had to hot-foot it yesterday when she stumbled across an anti-fur protest while she was wearing boots made of rabbit. Coleen – football ace Wayne Rooney's fiancée – was enjoying a spot of retail therapy in these £280 Mukluk boots. The 18-year-old had already visited Harvey Nichols in Manchester – but as she shopped in Selfridges, angry protesters gathered outside. On onlooker said: "It was pure coincidence but the timing couldn't have been worse. Her boots had white rabbit fur around the top. It's a good job no one spotted her."



ROBO DEAD IN 8 WEEKS

Xmas gift 'obsolete'

PRICEY Christmas toy Robosapien is going to be out of date in just two months, furious consumer groups have revealed.

Desperate parents are flocking to buy the £80 robot but its creator has admitted a better version will be out in February.

Consumers' Association spokesman Phil Evans branded the move "depressing", adding: "Parents will not realistically be able to persuade their kids to wait for the new version after Christmas."

"They will stump up for a product that will be replaced in a few

■ by TOM SAVAGE

months." Inventor Mark Tilden, 43, hinted that the new Robosapien 2 will be a female robot that combs its owner's hair, gives hugs and orders her male counterpart around.

Sales of the current robot have already reached 180,000 in Britain.

Rap

We revealed last week how parents were searching stores across the UK for the must-have toy, pictured right, as stocks dried up.

Robosapien became a favourite by being able to talk, rap, dance, kick and throw – as well as cheekily fart.



HARRY'S GIRL DOES IT 10 TIMES A DAY



CALLS OF THE WILD: Chelsy missed Harry

Passion by text spurred his trip

PRINCE Harry took his spur-of-the-moment trip to see his girlfriend in South Africa because the passionate pair couldn't bear to be apart.

He turned up unannounced at blonde beauty Chelsy Davy's family holiday home after she bombarded him with 10 sexy phone calls and texts a DAY.

They are now holed up for a week in a thatched beach hut on the remote paradise island of Bazaruto, off Mozambique.

And older royals are said to be in a spin over rumours that Charles's youngest is already considering marriage.

They fear the hot-headed 20-year-old could follow his pounding heart and change his mind about joining the Army in May.

He has already delayed enrolling at Sandhurst for four months after injuring his knee.

Ranch

Romance blossomed for Harry and Chelsy, 19, when they stayed on the same polo ranch in Argentina.

A royal source said: "He'd only been back here for a day when his phone started ringing at all hours of the day and night."

"Every time his mobile rang it was Chelsy."

"She was also sending him lots and lots of text messages. Harry was

EXCLUSIVE

by EMILY ROSE

pinning for her. He is obviously madly in love and she feels just as strongly for him.

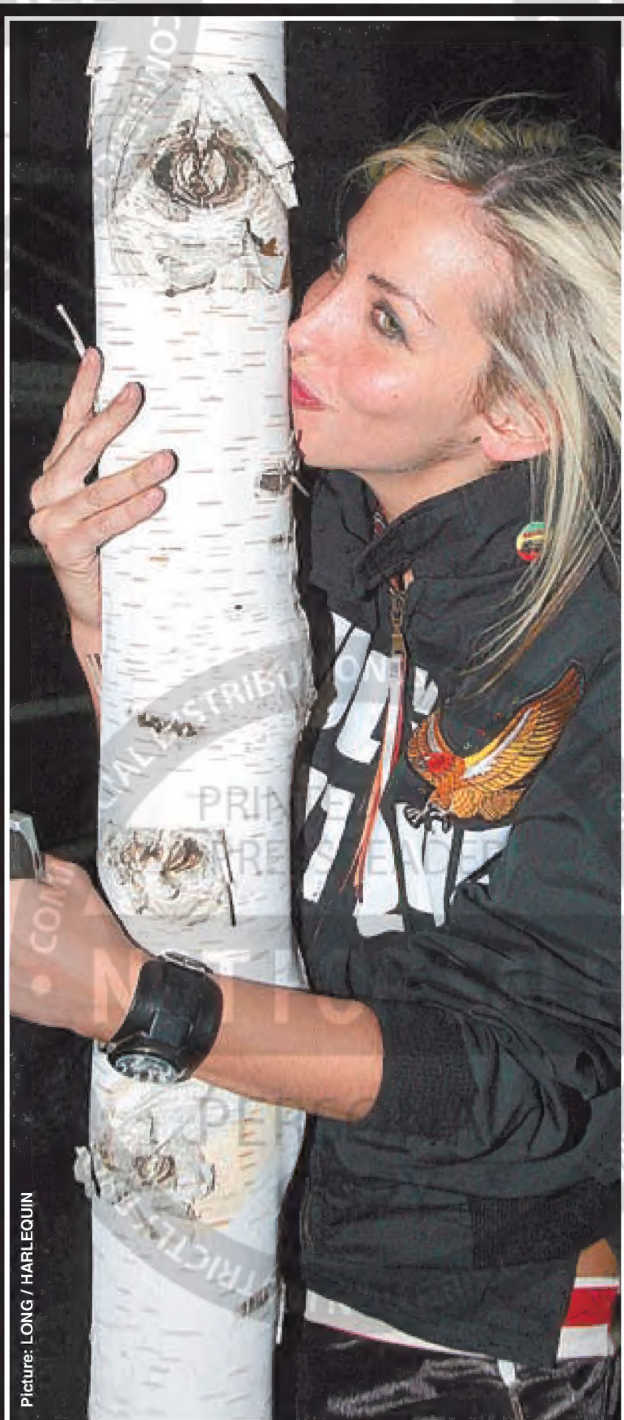
"We reckon he must have taken over 100 phone calls from her in a week!"

"He was supposed to be resting his injured knee at home but he's taken off to the other side of the world and is cavorting around on the beach and messing about in the sea."

Harry spent five days in Durban - where he was spotted kissing bikini-clad Chelsea on a balcony - before they flew off to the island in her dad's jet.

Harry hatched his secret travel plans with the help of Chelsy's brother Shaun.

Shaun, 20, and his mum Bev have joined the young lovebirds on the island - but they are staying in a separate beach hut.



Picture: LONG / HARLEQUIN

Wills love spilt

PRINCE William has dumped long-term girlfriend Kate Middleton and started dating fellow student Jecca Craig, 22.

Brunette Kate, 21, was said to be distraught last night after 22-year-old Wills told her he was finishing with her after 18 months.

The Prince said he wanted to concentrate on his art history exams at St Andrews University without "the pressure of being in a serious relationship".

Natalie's finally twigged

I'M A Celebrity whinger Natalie Appleton has finally got over her fear of trees by hugging one.

The former All Saints babe, who quit the ITV show after being voted to do her fifth Bushtucker Trial, showed at the weekend in North London that there is one fear she's conquered.

The 31-year-old singer was spotted showing the tree some love after having her hair done for the first time since leaving the jungle.

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GOOD EVANS THAT'S GERI NICE OF YOU

Old flame's gift to Chris

PINT-SIZED popstrel Geri Halliwell has splashed out on a £4,000 weekend to raise the spirits of old flame Chris Evans.

The former **Spice Girl**, who dated 38-year-old Evans briefly in 2000, is planning to give him the generous present for Christmas.

She's hoping it will put the smile back on his face after his painful split from wife **Billie Piper**, 22.

Geri, 32, has plumped for a sumptuous weekend in legendary Berkshire bolthole Cliveden, where they spent happy times as a couple.

She's booked Spring Cottage - where **Christine Keeler** romped with politician **John Profumo** - for early new year.

EXCLUSIVE

Buzzed

An insider said: "Geri was devastated after she split from Chris. She really buzzed off his energy and hit a low point when they went their separate ways."

"But when the rawness subsided, they got back in touch and became friends. "Lately, they've been speaking a lot. He's needed his friends during this difficult time and Geri's been a great support. She's sad

that he's still in a bad way. Cliveden is where she found out she'd had her first No.1. Chris had taken her there and she bounced with excitement on the sofas with him.

"He really inspired her to succeed and she's hoping to return the favour."

"The break could take him back to a time when he was full of enthusiasm."

What we all want to know, though, is: Will they be ginger-ly rekindling their love affair?

Passion

"Geri's gift is a gesture of friendship," our mole insisted. "There's been a lot of water under the bridge since their fling and there's no suggestion they'll become an item."

"But... there's chemistry there. A new relationship can't be ruled out, though they're unlikely to rush into anything."

Aw, c'mon guys, give us some red-blooded passion!

What the Halle?

THERE'S nothing we chapped-lips and office party hangover Brits like better than to see pictures of impossibly beautiful celebrities looking a bit rough.

So we feel duty-bound to show **Halle Berry**, 38, in naff Van Dutch and combats that went out with the Ark.

But she still looks amazing. No wonder kids mobbed her for autographs at an LA mall.

Blatt's way to do it!

THERE was nothing saintly about **Shaznay Lewis** and **Mel Blatt** as they enjoyed some horseplay after a night on the town.

In fact there was a spring in the step of the 29-year-old duo as they left The Wellington Club.

It wouldn't be something to do with the fact the nation now know what a trial life in **All Saints** must've been like with that whiny **Appleton** woman, would it?

And it wouldn't be they were tickled by a certain Natalie A having to do some stomach-turning **Bushtucker** trials.

We bet they've got huge phone bills this month.

SPOTTED

IN London: **Jennifer Saunders** browsing round Borough Market with her husband **Ade Edmonson**, funnyman **Jimmy Carr** hailing a cab at Horseferry near Kings Cross, singer **Gabrielle** selecting a sparkly shoulder cape in Selfridges, Bond Street and Cold Feet star **Jimmy Nesbitt** strolling down Lordship Lane with a takeaway bag in his hand.



Picture: BIGPICTURES/PHOTO.COM

Picture: PALMER/SMART PICTURES

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?



HUSH HUSH

WHICH long-suffering wife is facing a marital meltdown over her husband's dalliance with a male pal? As used as she is to turning a blind eye to his extra-curricular activities, we hear that things have finally come to a head. The thing that made the poor lass finally flip was finding her man's macho lover in her bed. Well can you blame her?

Dad Vernon in tot gear

NO, no **Vernon**, you're not getting this fatherhood thing right... it's the baby you should be buying gifts for, not yourself! Think how many mini-tweed Baby Gap bomber jackets you could get 11-week-old **Phoebe Elizabeth** for the price of that new Jag. Still at least Mr Kay is keeping the gleaming motor - parked outside the west London home he shares with wife **Tess Daly** - tidy with that little Dust Buster. Yes, chuck, you've been spotted with it...

Picture: REX FEATURES

Cruz is in total control

PENELOPE Cruz looked radiant as she won the Best Actress gong at the European Film Awards in Barcelona.

The 30-year-old star, who famously dated **Tom Cruise**, wore a crystal and chiffon dress to collect her People's Choice Award.

Pen landed the accolade for her performance in *Don't Move* and admitted that she was chuffed to bits. She said: "Knowing that people cared enough to vote for me is deeply touching."

Touching maybe but it still didn't help her when it came to the big one - Best European Actress went to **Imelda Staunton**, 48.

She nabbed the prize for her acclaimed role in **Mike Leigh's** *Vera Drake*, but was stoically British about the affair. "It's very flattering, but I'd prefer to have Pen's dress." I think that we would all like that...



AVRIL'S ONE OVER THE 8

THOSE of you still trying to shake that hangover from the weekend should gain comfort from the fact that **Avril Lavigne** is probably still suffering.

Having met her ourselves we can only say that the prospect of the odious strumpet being in any kind of discomfort can only brighten our Monday morning.

However, we've all been there, and judging by Avril and her mate's appearance at the Spider club in Hollywood at 2am... they'd been there too long.

Luckily for blurry-eyed Avril, she had a car on hand to spirit her away to her angst-girl crib. We do hope she paid for it I8er.



QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...

WE don't want to ruin the surprise but a little birdie tells us that gorgeous **Suranne Jones** (right) could be getting a certain type of sparkly ring this Xmas...

Friends of her boyfriend **Jonathan Wrather** reckon he's set to pop the question when they travel to Australia for the festivities.



JENNIFER Aniston, 35, (right) may heading to the UK to promote her new projects at the weekend but she's left her people in no doubt as to what she won't discuss.

Despite persistent rumours that their marriage has hit the rocks, we hear that the subject of husband **Brad Pitt**, 41, is strictly taboo. Touchy eh?



ROBBIE could be in luck if he's still holding out for a date with **Delta Goodrem**, 20.

The Aussie songbird is moving to the US and is considering either New York or LA where the Robster has a pad. How cosy!

Robbie, 30, recently revealed that he'd got his eye on Delta. He said: "I hope she'll stay celibate until I visit Australia very soon."

Picture: MAVRXPOTO.COM

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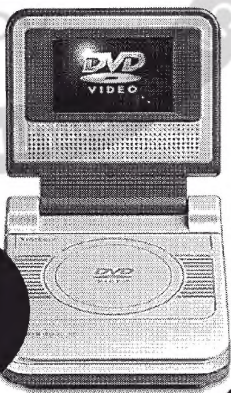
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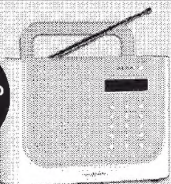


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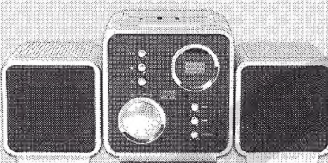
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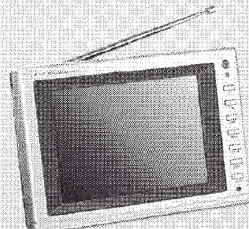


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News in brief

GAIL'S KILLER BOOBS

TELLY star Gail Porter has told how she almost suffocated her husband Dan Hipgrave, 29, with her huge boobs.

The pint-sized Dead Famous presenter, 33, said: "They are enormous and hurt my back - they're 30DD. They could smother a small person."

"When I was pregnant they were huge and poor Dan was in fear of his life. He thought he'd die in bed. He was like: 'Don't roll over - please.'"



BOOBY TRAP: Gail

Racing to old age

SALES of driving computer games are soaring among middle-aged men.

Burning up the hi-tech highway is now the nearest they get to speed without cameras and road humps.

Shop chain Game says it's often small, middle-class market towns where the games are most popular such as Kings Lynn, Norfolk and Worthing in Sussex.

Game even found one man aged over 50 who turned on a desktop fan as he played to recreate the feeling of driving an open-top car.

SHREK'S JUST A BIG FAKE



PIRATE: Shrek

SHREK 2 and Shark Tale are the top-selling pirate films on sale this Christmas.

Other popular fakes include The Day After Tomorrow, The Polar Express, Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, Harry Potter And The Prisoner of Azkaban and Spider-Man 2.

Anti-piracy investigators are on the trail. They're celebrating a record three million seizures this year - but it's still only 5% of the £450m illicit market.

Leave car at home

FRUSTRATED commuters have set up their own company to beat "extortionate" parking charges.

Park Let is offering homeowners up to £150 a month to rent out their drives and garages as parking spaces.

Hundreds of families in Essex have already taken up the offer, available on the internet.

Park Let boss Ryan Kelly, who hopes to expand the scheme nationwide, said: "People pay extortionate amounts to park their car. However, next to these car parks are houses with vacant spaces."

BUSTING BRA BINNED

A BOOB has forced Wonderbra to recall its latest line.

The Clearly Daring range left customers red-faced when the strap that joined the cups snapped.

One customer's bra, designed to allow women to wear it and still show off their cleavage in plunging tops, burst open while she was trying it on in the shop.

Wonderbra became famous following its "Hello Boys" poster campaign featuring Eva Herzigova.



TOPS: Eva and bra

Boy rape charge

A 12-YEAR-OLD schoolboy has been charged with raping his teacher.

The boy is alleged to have attacked the woman after receiving personal tuition from her at a school in County Durham in November.

The schoolboy then allegedly stole her car, which was later found abandoned in Gateshead.

The boy - who cannot be named for legal reasons - has been charged with rape and theft. He is due to appear for a second time before South Durham Magistrates Court on December 30.